

June 19, 2013

### Travel on a Naturalization Certificate?

**Question:** *I have recently become a U.S. citizen through naturalization. Can I travel on my naturalization certificate when I return to the U.S.?*

No, you cannot use your naturalization certificate as a travel document. Since 2007, the United States of America requires all U.S. citizens to enter and exit the United States on a valid U.S. passport, even if they are dual citizens of another country. Airlines will not board a passenger when a naturalization certificate is presented. If a U.S. citizen in Jamaica does not have a valid passport, they must apply for a new one at a U.S. Embassy in Kingston or the Consular Agency in Montego Bay before they can travel home. Depending on where and when the passport application was filed on the island, this process can take anywhere from 1-4 weeks. Travelers without a valid passport who need to return to the U.S. will likely experience significant delays, expenses and complications related to the booking of airline tickets and entering the United States. The best solution is to apply for a passport before you travel. Be wary of advice on U.S. passport regulations from travel agents, airlines or relatives; the only official source of information about U.S. passports in Jamaica is the U.S. Embassy in Kingston or [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

At most naturalization ceremonies new U.S. citizens are provided directions to apply for a passport along with their naturalization certificate. Remember, missing work, school or flights are not considered emergencies. Passport applications submitted in Kingston can take 7-10 days to process, and up to four weeks when submitted in Montego Bay.

Appointments for a new passport are made online at <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/appointments.html>. The summer is a busy time for travel and the U.S. Embassy of Kingston has a high demand for passport services. In summer months, you may have to wait several weeks to get an appointment though we do our best to keep our appointment wait times short.

Once you have made a passport appointment, please be sure that you have all required documents, fees and photos prior to your appointment. You should review all requirements for passport applications on our website, <http://kingston.usembassy.gov>, and on <http://www.travel.state.gov>, before applying. For a child under the age of 16 years old, all parents listed on the birth certificate must give consent for the child to obtain a new U.S. passport. If a parent is in the United States, they must provide notarized DS-3053 consent form, copy of their driver's license or passport, and a notarized letter authorizing any third party who will sign the application on their behalf. If any of the parents are in Jamaica they must accompany the child to the U.S. Embassy or Consular Agency on the appointment date and sign the application. If the child's appearance has changed significantly since the time of his or her last passport application, please bring photos to demonstrate how the child has grown.

All U.S. citizens in Jamaica should take advantage of our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) where you can register your presence in Jamaica to receive emergency updates from the U.S. Embassy via email. To register for this free service, please log on to <https://step.state.gov/step/> and click the “create account tab,” and then create a ‘trip’ for Jamaica after creating and confirming your account.

*For more information about American Citizen Services, please visit our website, <http://kingston.usembassy.gov> . For safety and security measures, the U.S. Embassy asks that all individuals arrive at the Embassy or Consular Agency no more than 15 minutes before their designated appointment time.*